

March 9, 2006

Reimund Raue Dipl.-Ing.
Gutenbergstrasse 3
D-88046 Friedrichshafen
Germany

Re: U.S. Patent Application
Serial No.: 09/319,842
Inv.: WESTERMANN
Your ref.: BO 32616
Our ref.: 686

Dear Sirs:

Thank you for your letter of September 4, 2003 and your instructions contained therein. We have now prepared and filed an Amendment, a copy of which is enclosed.

Please note the following:

In view of the Examiner's formal objections and rejections, we have amended the specification and submitted a copy of Figure 7 with the

proposed correction. Also, as required by the Examiner, we have submitted a substitute specification indicating the changes which we made in it during the prosecution.

Since the Examiner made some comments to the claims, we have also amended the claims as required by the Examiner, and also indicated that in some instances he is authorized to make further changes.

In view of the Examiner's indication of the allowability of claims 7 and 8 in your instructions, we have canceled claim 7 and submitted claim 9 which combines the features of the original claims 1, 6 and 7. This claim, together with claim 8, which has been amended to depend on claim 9, is now in allowable condition.

The other claims which were rejected by the Examiner have been retained substantially as they were with minor corrections related to formal issues.

In our remarks we analyzed in detail the European patent document applied by the Examiner, based on the very detailed information forwarded by you. We have also explained the new features of the present invention

and showed that they were not disclosed in the reference and could not be derived from it as a matter of obviousness. It was pointed out that the present invention as defined in claim 1 clearly and patentably from the prior art and therefore claim 1 should be allowed. We have also cited some legal decisions to support our position.

In accordance with our usual practice we are planning to arrange a conference with the Examiner to discuss this case personally with him and to make every effort to obtain allowance of the present application.

As always, we remain,

Very truly yours,

Michael J. Striker

MJS:cjt

Enclosure